ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION (IRELAND).

THE ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for *Ireland* to the Lord Lieutenant, for the Year ending 1 August 1846.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN WILLIAM, EARL OF BESBOROUGH,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

WE, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Ireland, whose hands and corporate seal are hereunto annexed, beg leave to report to your Excellency, pursuant to the provisions of the Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37, the proceedings of the Commissioners for the year ending the 1st of August 1846.

The repairs of the Parochial Churches, the greater number of which are old and dilapidated buildings, necessarily absorb in each year a large portion of whatever monies may be available for Church Works; and although many Churches require rebuilding, did the funds admit of it, the Commissioners are able, from time to time, to select such only as are most pressing, and to defer the others as long as the buildings can be upheld.

Out of the sum of 23,687*l.* 18*s.* appropriated for Church Works within the year, 175*l.* only has been allocated to the purposes of enlargements. By this small expenditure, aided by private subscriptions, increased accommodation will be afforded for 335 persons, in the Churches of Desertsergcs in the Diocese of Cork, Kilfithmore in the Diocese of Cashel, and of Drumgooland in the Diocese of Dromore. £.2,736. 1*s.* 7*d.* has been allocated for completing the rebuilding of five of the Churches mentioned in the last Report; 4,000*l.* to commence the rebuilding of eleven Churches which were urgently required; and 12,771*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* is in the course of being expended in the repair of 888 Churches.

Of the residue of the sum appropriated to Church Works, 1,000*l.* has been expended in repairing the enclosing fences of 131 Churches; 305*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in the erection of stoves and bells; 200*l.* in the internal cleaning of Churches; and 2,500*l.* in external painting.

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An advantage resulting from a distribution of this kind is, that the Commissioners have obtained, in aid of these several objects, contributions amounting to 8,465*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, viz., for the purpose of enlargements, 445*l.*; of rebuildings, 7,144*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, of which 2,841*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* has been received within the year; for external painting and cleaning, 324*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*; expended by the Parishioners, and for the providing of stoves, &c., 551*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*; the subscribers thereby manifesting their desire to co-operate with the Commissioners in the works undertaken by them.

Connected with the preservation of the Churches, several matters continue to engage the particular attention of the Commissioners, which are more important than may at first appear. A system has prevailed in this country of interring bodies close to the fabrics, and the effect has been to engender damp and rot the flooring and adjoining woodwork; this, together with the almost general want of gutters, pipes, and sewers to carry off the water, has caused considerable injury to the Churches and expense to the funds of the Board. The enclosing of Churches by suitable fences has been in some cases wholly neglected, and in others the enclosures have been so insufficient, that the demands on the Commissioners under this head are increasing very considerably. It is only by degrees that these matters can be attended to; but the Commissioners have the satisfaction to state that they are in the course of being remedied as opportunities present themselves and their funds will admit.

The following Churches, rebuilt by the Commissioners, have been opened for celebration of Divine Service within the year. Loughguile, in Connor Diocese, capable of accommodating 320 persons; Enniscorthy, in Ferns Diocese, for 880; Gallen, in Meath Diocese, for 220; Charleville and Cloynepriest, both in Cloyne Diocese, the former capable of accommodating 264, and the latter 90 persons; and Dysertenos, in Leighlin Diocese, for 120 persons.

And the Churches now in progress of rebuilding, or for the rebuilding of which, although not yet commenced, funds have been provided, either wholly or in part, by the Commissioners, are those of Dromore, Drummully, and Finner, in Clogher Diocese; Ardkeen, Ballyhalbert, and Whitechurch, in Down Diocese; Kenawley, in Kilmore Diocese; Ballycaslane, in Ardfert Diocese; Kilmacrennan, in Raphoe Diocese; Lusk, in Dublin Diocese; Kilmanagh, in Ossory Diocese; Carnew, in Ferns Diocese; Shonrohan, in Lismore Diocese; Kilmurry, in Cork Diocese; Kilcommon, in Killala Diocese; Ballinderry, in Armagh Diocese; Killery, in Ardagh Diocese; Ballymodan, Ballymoney, and St. Nicholas, in Cork Diocese; Moville, Upper, in Derry Diocese; Lismolin, in Cashel Diocese; and Croagh, in Limerick Diocese; some of which will be ready for the celebration of Divine Service in the early part of the ensuing year. The appointment of a clerk to Kilcully Parish, in Cork Diocese, having been suspended by the Commissioners, as formerly reported, the surplus income of this Benefice, after providing, by means of a licensed Curate for the discharge of the spiritual duties, is in course of being expended in the erection of a Parish Church.

In some of the cases above mentioned, as in those of Ballyhalbert and Whitechurch, the Commissioners have only contributed about one-fourth of the expense, the

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the Parishioners having undertaken to provide the remainder; but the works are carried on under the superintendence and direction of the architect and inspectors of the Board. In other cases, where funds have been provided for one or two years, the Commissioners have not been able to commence the buildings from the difficulty experienced in procuring new sites and obtaining the necessary consents. These delays are not attributable to the Commissioners, and are occasioned by circumstances over which they have no control.

In relation to the monies arising under Bishop Gore's will, from the Impropriate Tithes of Cahir Parish, in the Diocese of Lismore, of which the Commissioners, by order of the Court of Chancery, have been made Trustees, a separate account has been opened, by which it appears that a sum of 2,446*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* stood to the credit of the Trust to the 1st instant; and as the Testator's will limited the bequest to the rebuilding and repair of old ruined Churches in the Dioceses of Waterford and Lismore, the Commissioners have, with the approbation and under the direction of the Bishop, appropriated thereout the sum of 2,000*l.* for the rebuilding of the Parish Church of Drumcannon in the Diocese, of Waterford; and a plan, to afford accommodation for 500 persons, has been prepared and submitted to the Bishop for his approval.

The form of Instrument for the dissolution of the Benefices constituting the Wardenship of Galway, in the Diocese of Tuam, as mentioned in the last Annual Report, having received the approbation and signature of the Bishop of Tuam, was transmitted in March last for the approval of the Lord Lieutenant and the Privy Council. Some objections having been taken to apart of the proposed scheme of dissolution, the same, after due consideration, were brought by the Commissioners under the special notice, as well of the Diocesan as of the Warden and Vicars; and a modification of the scheme having been agreed to, the form of Instrument has been prepared accordingly, and forwarded for the signature of the Bishop of Tuam; and, when returned, will be re-submitted for the approval of your Excellency and the Privy Council.

In the last Report it wa sstated that the Commissioners had expressed their willingness to concur in the sale of the Advowsons of the united Parishes of Kilculliheen, Muckulla, and Rathpatrick, belonging to the Corporation of Waterford, in the county of Kilkenny, and Diocese of Ossory, but had at that time received no further information on the subject; they have since learned that the party who proposed had failed to complete the purchase, and the Commissioners having been moved by the Corporation to assent to this Advowson being sold to another person, at the same price as had been previously offered, they have signified their approval; but as yet have not been called upon to execute the Deed of Sale.

With respect to the Advowson of the united Benefices of Poleroan, Portnescully, and Illud, belonging to the same Corporation, it was represented, that in consequence of the state of health of the Incumbent, the Corporation would lose the benefit intended to be conferred on them by the Municipal Act, if the Commissioners withheld their assent to a sale of this Advowson, at a valuation less than that put upon it by the Notary Public. And the circumstances of the case having been fully considered, it appeared that it was n *bonâ fide* sale; and as

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there was no reason to doubt that the price agreed on was the utmost that could be procured, the Commissioners signified their readiness to agree to the sale of this Advowson on the terms suggested, but nothing further has since been brought under their notice in relation to this subject.

The proceedings referred to in last Report to enforce the payment of the rent and compensation for injury done by Mr. Baylie to the See-house and Demesne of Dromore while in his possession, have been terminated in favour of the Commissioners, but the circumstances of that gentleman have hitherto prevented the Commissioners from reaping any pecuniary benefit from those proceedings.

These premises were again advertised, and several proposals having been received, that of Mr. John Henry Quinn was selected as the highest and most eligible, and having been submitted to the Lord Lieutenant, and approved of by his Excellency, the property was demised to him for a term of 2,000 years, at an annual rent of 200*l.*, on payment of a fine of 2,236*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, which has been duly credited in the account hereunto annexed.

After having several times unsuccessfully offered the See-house and Demesne lands of Elphin to public competition, the Commissioners, on due consideration of the heavy annual expense incurred in the preservation of this property, and of the liability of the buildings to dilapidation from being so long untenanted, conceived it would be for the interest of the funds entrusted to their management to accept a proposal from Mr. Arthur O'Connor, although somewhat less in amount than the valuation obtained some years previously, when the property came into their possession. Mr. O'Connor proposed for a lease of the entire for a term of three lives and 999 years, at a rent of 400*l.* per annum, on payment of a fine of 2,000*l.*, and the sum of 200*l.* for the purchase of the timber; and the peculiar circumstances of the case having been brought fully under the notice of the Lord Lieutenant, his Excellency was pleased to approve of the proposal. Leases have been accordingly executed, and the two sums of 2,000*l.* and 200*l.* have been duly credited in the account hereunto annexed. By the disposal of these See-houses and Demesne lands, the expense of 477*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, which has been necessarily incurred within the year in the care and management of them, will be no longer required.

A second instalment of 100*l.* for the timber of Raphoe has been also placed to the credit of the Commissioners.

In reference to the writ of *quare impedit*, noticed in the last, with respect to the Parish of Clogher, part of the corps of the Chancellorship of Cashel, no proceedings have since been taken.

The suit pending between the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Treasurer of the Cathedral Church of St. Mary's Limerick, respecting the Glebe of Emly-Grennan Parish, which formed part of the corps of the Treasurership, has been brought to a conclusion, by a decision in the House of Lords in favour of the Commissioners.

Under

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Under the 116th section of the Act of 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37, the Commissioners have suspended the appointment of Clerks to the Benefices of Kilcoleman, in the Diocese of Limerick, of the annual value of 60 *l.*; of Bohillane, in the Diocese of Cloyne, of the annual value of 161 *l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*; and of the united Parishes of Kilcoan and Kilbride, in the Diocese of Ossory, of the annual value of 118 *l.* 11*s.*, due notice having been previously given to the respective Diocesans of the days appointed for taking into consideration the propriety of such suspensions. It appearing by the certificate of the Ordinaries that Divine Service had not been celebrated within these Benefices respectively for the three years next preceding February 1833, provision has been made for the discharge of the occasional duties of each of these Benefices, by committing them to the Incumbents or Curates of the adjoining Parishes, with the approbation of the respective Bishops; as it did not appear that the Spiritual Duties of any of these Benefices required a Curate to be specially licensed for the purpose.

With respect to the Parish of Painstown, in the Diocese of Leighlin, although it came under the consideration of the Board as one of those Benefices in which Divine Service had not been performed within the prescribed period, as certified by the Diocesan, yet the Commissioners did not consider it a fit case for suspending the appointment of a Clerk, as it appeared by the representation of the present Diocesan that Divine Service had been continuously performed within the Benefice since April 1833; and that there is at present a Congregation averaging between 60 and 70 persons.

With respect to the Precentorship of Emly, the vacancy of which was brought under the notice of the Lord Lieutenant and the Privy Council immediately before the date of the last Report, an Order of Council has since been passed for disappropriating therefrom the Parish of Aglishcormick and all its emoluments, of the annual value of 145 *l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, and for transferring same to the General Fund of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

It appears by the Returns of Promotions and otherwise, that five Dignities, five Prebends, and 50 Parochial Benefices have become vacant within the year, of which nine are liable to tax, and the rest are not liable. In respect to the Dignities and Prebends, the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council have, on the recommendation of the Commissioners, been pleased to suspend the appointments of Clerks to the Treasurership of the Cathedral Church of Ardfert, of the annual value of 48 *l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*; to Taghsaxon and Kilmeen, Prebends belonging to the Cathedral Church of Tuam, the former of the annual value of 5 *l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and the latter of 116 *l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*; and to Kilcooley Prebend, belonging to the Cathedral Church of Elphin, of the annual value of 84 *l.* 11*s.*

By the Act of 3 & 4 Vict. c. 101, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are directed and authorized to alter and amend the Valuations heretofore made of the emoluments of all such Dignities and Benefices as were liable to tax for the years preceding 1838, having due regard to, and including therein, all such payments as might or should be made to the Clergy under the Act of 1 & 2 Vict. c. 109, and to compute and assess the tax and arrears thereof upon such amended Valuations. In the discharge of this duty, considerable delay and difficulty have been experienced

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rienced, inasmuch as the proceedings of the Commissioners, in this respect, are made consequent, not only upon the monies to be awarded to the Clergy under the Million Act, but also upon the measures instituted by the Crown for the recovery of Tithe Compositions from such landlords as by said Act were held responsible. At the time the Act came into operation there were 129 Benefices liable to tax under Compositions, and the necessary information having been obtained from the Clergy as to the amount of Compositions received or expected, and the amount of relief obtained under the Million Act, the Commissioners proceeded, to the best of their ability, to amend the Valuations, and have ascertained that out of the 129 Benefices, 18 were exempted from tax; that the Incumbents of seven Benefices did not claim any benefit under the provisions of the Act; that three Incumbents who had paid tax on the original Valuations of their Benefices became entitled to, and have been refunded the whole of the tax paid by them; that the Incumbents of 13 Benefices became subject to a less amount of tax than had been originally assessed, in which cases the overplus paid by them has been returned; and as respects the remaining 87 Benefices, payment of the reduced amount of tax has been made in 12 cases; indulgence has been granted and security for payment accepted in eight; and with the exception of nine Incumbents, who died without furnishing the required information, the rest are in course of settlement.

With respect to Perpetuity Purchases, 46 applications to purchase have been received from immediate tenants, and 52 from sub-tenants. Of the applications from the sub-tenants, so many as 44 related to property comprised in one lease from the See. The imperfect state of legislation in respect to purchases by sub-tenants renders the calculations consequent upon applications from them very tedious and complicated, and great difficulty and much delay have been experienced in obtaining tha information necessary to ascertain and protect the rights, not only of the applicants, but of the Ecclesiastical landlord, and the immediate and several intervening tenants; and it may happen, and has occurred, that after the trouble, time, and expense have been incurred, the whole is rendered abortive by the immediate tenant declaring his readiness to purchase.

Purchases have been completed to the amount of 3,778*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, of which sum 2,449*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* has been paid into the Bank of Ireland to the credit of the Perpetuity Purchase Fund, and the residue has been secured by way of mortgage. The smallness of the amount received within the year, under this head, was occasioned by certain inquiries made by the Privy Council in relation to the calculations of the Commissioners, which caused the approval of the terms of purchase in 22 cases, amounting to 9,923*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, to be delayed for several months. A sum, to the amount of 8,924*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, has also been lodged in the Bank to the credit of this fund, in liquidation of mortgages heretofore granted on former sales. And from these payments a further instalment, to the amount of 10,000*l.*, has been paid to the Board of Public Works, in liquidation of the loan of 100,000*l.* advanced by that Board to the Commissioners under the provisions of the Act 4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 90. And the residue, after defraying the necessary expenses, has been invested in Government Securities.

Under

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Under the provisions of the Acts 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37, and 6 & 7 Vict. c. 99, the sum of 2,338*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* has been paid to the Bishops of Cork and Kilmore; 6,362*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* has been paid to Curates, Vicars-choral, and Diocesan Schoolmasters. And under the provisions of 3 & 4 Vict. c. 101, 930*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* has been paid in augmentation of small Benefices, exclusive of the sum of 4,451*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* applied under Primate Boulter's Bequest to augmentation purposes, thereby making the total payments made within the year on these several accounts amount to the sum of 14,082*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*

An account of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Commissioners to the 1st instant is annexed to this Report, showing the sources from whence the receipts have arisen and the specific purposes to which they have been applied.

All which is submitted to your Excellency's consideration.

(signed) JOHN G. ARMAGH.
R^D DUBLIN.
EDWARD MEATH.
R. DERRY, &c.
HENRY MEREDYTH.
JOHN C. ERCK.
W^M C. QUIN.

Board-Room, 24 Upper Merrion-street.

(A true Copy.)
Thos Bushe, Secretary.

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AN ACCOUNT by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for *Ireland*, of all their Receipts and Disbursements been derived, and showing the Total Amount derived from each Source,

RECEIPTS:	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Balance in General Fund, 1st August 1845 - - - £.5,945 9 8		
— in Treasurer's hands - - - - - - 30 - -		
	5,975 9 8	
Ditto - in Perpetuity Purchase Fund ditto - - - - - -	503 6 - ½	
		6,478 15 8½
Received from Waterford and Lismore see estates - - - - - -	3,960 7 2	
— Killala and Achonry, ditto - - - - - - -	5,254 13 9½	
— Clonfert and Kilmacduagh, ditto - - - - - -	1,825 18 6¾	
— Raphoe, ditto - - - - - - - - - -	8,524 16 1	
— Ossory, ditto - - - - - - - - - -	5,041 11 -	
— Cork and Ross, ditto - - - - - - - - -	4,341 - 8½	
— Ardagh, ditto - - - - - - - - - -	2,321 7 10½	
— Elphin, ditto - - - - - - - - - -	7,165 10 11½	
— Dromore, ditto - - - - - - - - - -	4,335 9 10	
		42,770 15 11¾
— Dromore see-house and demesne, fine thereon - - -	2,236 6 8	
— Elphin - - ditto - - ditto - - - - -	2,000 - -	
— Ditto, value of timber - - - - - - -	200 - -	
— Raphoe demesne, timber, second instalment - - - -	100 - -	
		4,536 6 8
— Suspended dignities, benefices, and disappropriated tithes -	- - -	20,783 13 2¼
— Charge on the see of Derry - - - - - - -	- - -	2,080 - -
— Tax on bishopricks and benefices - - - - - -	- - -	9,323 17 6
— Glebe-house loan instalments - - - - - - -	- - -	4,819 12 4
— Sales of perpetuities - - - - - - - - -	2,449 10 8	
— Perpetuity mortgages paid off - - - - - - -	8,924 4 2	
		11,373 14 10
— Interest on Three per Cent. Consols - - - - - -	- - -	1,950 - -
— Ditto on perpetuity mortgages - - - - - - -	- - -	3,221 4 5½
— Ditto on Three-and-a-half per Cent. Stock lodged by Mr. G. Lindsay, as his security as agent - - - - - -	- - -	3 5 -
— Monies deposited to defray expenses in ascertaining terms of perpetuities - - - - - - - - - -	- - -	10 13 4
— Sales of perpetuity printed forms - - - - - -	- - -	16 6 4
— Ditto Three per Cent. Consols from General Fund - -	- - -	7,705 9 3
— Contributions from Economy Funds for repairs of cathedrals -	- - -	96 10 8
— Bequest for Donamore church repairs - - - - - -	- - -	7 7 8
— Private subscriptions for rebuilding and enlarging churches -	2,841 13 8	
— Ditto, repairs, stoves, &c. &c. - - - - - - -	551 13 1	
		3,393 6 9
— Ditto, for insurance of church - - - - - - -	- - -	3 7 6
— Monies granted for church purposes, and returned unapplied	- - -	100 7 11
	£.	118,674 15 1

PRIMATE BOULTER'S AND PRIMATE ROBINSON'S FUNDS. - - - -

	£. s. d.
Balance in Primate Boulter's Fund, 1st August 1845 - - - - - - - - - -	1,666 3 6
Ditto - Primate Robinson's - ditto - - - - - - - - - -	20 7 8
Received on account of Primate Boulter's Fund, to 31st July 1846 - - - - - -	4,527 11 10
Ditto - - - - - - Primate Robinson's - ditto - - - - - - - - -	20 7 8
£.	6,234 10 8

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for One Year, ending the 1st day of August 1846; distinguishing the specific Sources from which all Monies have and the specific Purposes to which the Receipts have been applied.

DISBURSEMENTS:	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
For rebuilding churches, under grants made in this and the preceding year	10,290	11	9			
– Enlarging churches, under grants made in preceding years	246	1	5			
– Repairs of churches	15,462	–	8			
– Extraordinary repairs of churches	559	1	4			
				26,558	15	2
– Requisites for the celebration of Divine Service, granted on yearly estimates	34,785	3	6			
– Bibles, Prayer and registry books	232	6	–			
				35,017	9	6
– Payment to the Bishop of Cork	1,500	–	–			
– Ditto to the Bishop of Kilmore	150	–	–			
– Interest to ditto on building charge of Kilmore see-house, under 6 & 7 Vict. c. 57	688	–	11			
– Stipends to Dublin curates	1,948	15	–			
– Ditto to incumbents, curates, and vicars-choral	4,306	11	1			
– Augmentation payments to incumbents of small benefices, under 3 & 4 Vict. c. 101	930	7	10			
– Stipends to diocesan schoolmasters	107	19	3			
				9,631	14	1
– Salaries to commissioners, secretary, treasurer, and clerks	–	–	–	6,423	1	5
– Interest on 60,000 *l.*, due to Board of Works on 100,000 *l.* loan	–	–	–	2,400	–	–
– Rent, coals, candles, and other incidents	–	–	–	523	3	11
– Receipt stamps	–	–	–	57	18	6
– Binding Ordnance survey	–	–	–	23	18	–
– Postage	–	–	–	175	7	5
– Fees for registering perpetuity certificates, &c.	–	–	–	10	10	10
– Expenses incurred in valuation of lands	–	–	–	19	18	–
– Rents, rentcharges, and tax abated and returned to incumbents and others	–	–	–	206	1	1
– Caretakers' wages, taxes, and other expenses of see-houses and mensal lands	–	–	–	477	9	3
– Quit and Crown rents, &c.	–	–	–	71	17	11
– Advertising proposals for church works, &c.	–	–	–	70	2	–
– Stationery and printing for one year	–	–	–	389	8	–
– Solicitors, for personal services	1,000	–	–			
– Ditto - for disbursements and expenses	303	11	10			
– Ditto - for law clerks' salaries	290	–	–			
				1,593	11	10
– Enrolling and engrossing deeds of conveyance for perpetuities, under 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37, and 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 99	–	–	–	226	7	10
– For payment on account of loan to Board of Public Works	–	–	–	10,000	–	–
– Transfer to Bishop Gore's charity, and payment of costs under order of Court of Chancery	–	–	–	1,113	5	7½
– Purchase of 2,500 *l.* Three per Cent Consols, Perpetuity Purchase Fund	2,476	7	–			
– Ditto - 7,500 *l.* - ditto } from General Fund						
– Ditto - 7,000 *l.* Three-and-a-quarter p' Cent. Stock } from General Fund	14,428	12	9			
				16,904	19	9
– Balance in General Fund, 31st July, per bank - £.6,785 7 4						
Off draft not presented - 5 12 5						
	6,779	14	11			
– Ditto - Perpetuity Purchase Fund, same date	–	–	–½			
				6,779	14	11½
			£	118,674	15	1

PRIMATE BOULTER'S AND PRIMATE ROBINSON'S FUNDS.

	£.	s.	d.
By stipends in augmentation of small benefices	4,451	2	10
– Balances in Primate Boulter's Fund, 31st July 1846	1,742	12	6
– Ditto - Primate Robinson's - - ditto	40	15	4
£.	6,234	10	8

(E. E.)

(signed) *James E. Stopford*, LL.D.

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